

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-37 (canceled).

1 Claim 38 (new): A method of retrieving, through a terminal
2 device, any one of a plurality of electronic messages from a
3 server, each of the messages having a header and a message
4 body containing characters, the method comprising the steps
5 of:

6 establishing a communications link between the server
7 and the terminal device;

8 for each one of the messages, transmitting, by the
9 server to the terminal device, the header and first N
10 characters of the message body and a flag, where N is a
11 predetermined integer, while holding back all attachments of
12 said each one message, the flag indicating whether, as a
13 remaining message part of said each one message, any
14 remaining characters of the message body subsequent to said
15 N characters or any of the attachments are then retrievable
16 from the server;

17 for said each one message, presenting, by the terminal
18 device, the header, the first N characters and the flag to a
19 user of the terminal device, so as to define a plurality of
20 presented flags with each of the presented flags being
21 indicative of and associated with the retrievable message
22 part for a different one of the messages;

23 sending, upon request of the user and in response to
24 one of the presented flags, as selected by the user so as to
25 define a selected flag, a request to the server to retrieve
26 the remaining message part for a particular one of the
27 messages then corresponding to the selected flag; and

28 transmitting, in response to the user request and from
29 the server to the terminal device, P characters of the
30 message body for the particular one message or a selected
31 one of the attachments for the particular one message, P
32 being an integer number and said P characters occurring in
33 the message body of the particular one message subsequent to
34 said N characters thereof.

1 Claim 39 (new): The method recited in claim 38 wherein the
2 flag comprises a first flag indicative of any remaining
3 characters in said one message and a second flag indicative
4 of any attachments in said one message.

1 Claim 40 (new): The method recited in claim 38 further
2 comprising the step, performed by the server, of determining
3 a value of the integer N.

1 Claim 41 (new): The method recited in claim 38 further
2 comprising the step, performed by the server, of erasing the
3 particular one message once no further text and no further
4 attachments for the particular one message remain to be
5 transmitted to the terminal device.

1 Claim 42 (new): The method recited in claim 38 further
2 comprising the step, performed by the server, of retaining
3 the particular one message if any remaining text or any

4 attachments for the particular one message have not yet been
5 transmitted to the server.

1 Claim 43 (new): The method recited in claim 38 further
2 comprising the step, performed by the server, of storing all
3 of messages in a mailbox having a limited capacity, but
4 erasing a partially transmitted one of the messages if
5 additional capacity in the mailbox beyond the limited
6 capacity is required to store the partially transmitted one
7 message.

1 Claim 44 (new): The method recited in claim 38 wherein the
2 terminal device is a mobile handset or a PDA.

1 Claim 45 (new): A system for retrieving, through a terminal
2 device, an electronic message from a server, the system
3 comprising:
4 the server and the terminal device, wherein the message
5 has a header and a body containing characters, the server
6 and the terminal device being capable of establishing a
7 communications link therebetween; and
8 wherein:
9 the server is arranged for transmitting, to the
10 terminal device, the header and first N characters of the
11 message body and a flag, where N is a predetermined integer,
12 while holding back all attachments of said each one message,
13 the flag indicating whether, as a remaining message part of
14 said each one message, any remaining characters of the
15 message body subsequent to said N characters or any of the
16 attachments are then retrievable from the server;
17 the terminal device is arranged for presenting,
18 for said each one message, the header, the first N

19 characters and the flag to a user of the terminal device, so
20 as to define a plurality of presented flags with each of the
21 presented flags being indicative of and associated with the
22 retrievable message part for a different one of the
23 messages, and for sending, upon request of the user and in
24 response to one of the presented flags, as selected by the
25 user so as to define a selected flag, a request to the
26 server to retrieve the remaining message part for a
27 particular one of the messages then corresponding to the
28 selected flag; and

29 the server is arranged for transmitting to the
30 terminal device and in response to the user request, P
31 characters of the message body for the particular one
32 message or a selected one of the attachments for the
33 particular one message, P being an integer number and said P
34 characters occurring in the message body of the particular
35 one message subsequent to said N characters thereof.

1 Claim 46 (new): The system recited in claim 45 wherein the
2 flag comprises a first flag indicative of any remaining
3 characters in said one message and a second flag indicative
4 of any attachments in said one message.

1 Claim 47 (new): A terminal device for use in the system
2 recited in claim 45, wherein the terminal device is capable
3 of establishing a communications link with a server,
4 receiving, for each one of a plurality of messages, a header
5 and first N characters of a body of said one message and at
6 least one flag indicative of any remaining characters of the
7 body or any attachments in said one message such that a
8 plurality of flags are displayed, the terminal device being
9 arranged for requesting, in response to a user selected one

10 of the displayed flags and associated with a particular one
11 of the messages, the server to send, for the particular one
12 message, P characters of the body or a selected one of the
13 attachments, P being an integer number and said P characters
14 occurring in the body of the particular one message
15 subsequent to said N characters in the particular one
16 message.

1 Claim 48 (new): The terminal device recited in claim 47
2 wherein the device is arranged for use in mobile telephony.